GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3398
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
Underweight and Stunted Children
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks high in the world in terms of number of underweight and stunted children;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the percentage of underweight/stunted children in the country;

(c) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government to overcome the aforesaid problems and the funds allocated/ released and utilised along with the achievements made thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State/UT-wise; and

(e) the further steps being taken by the Government to eradicate the problems of underweight and stunted children in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (c): Yes.As per the report of 'Rapid Survey of Children (2013-14), 29.4% of under-five children are underweight, 38.7% are stunted. The State/UT wise percentage of underweight and stunted children is at annexure 1.

(d) & (e): The following interventions are being undertaken under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of National Health Mission, and funds are being provided each year for carrying out following set of activities towards management of nutritional deficiencies among women and children:
â€¢ Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age through ASHA worker and health care provider at health facilities.

â€¢ Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

â€¢ Treatment of sick children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities. Presently 960 such centres are functional in 26 States and UTs. Incentive to ASHA for tracking of SAM children discharged from NRCs

â€¢ Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6 months to 5 years.

â€¢ Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministries of Health & Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) are monthly days held at village level in Anganwadi centre where nutrition education is given to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.

â€¢ 'National Iron Plus Initiative' has been launched as an effective strategy for iron folic acid supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, in programme mode through life cycle approach.

â€¢ Incentive are provided to ASHA for tracking of Low birth weight babies

â€¢ Promotion for intake of iodised salt and monitoring salt quality through testing under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme

â€¢ Similarly, under Jananai Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), all infants seeking treatment in public health facilities are provided food, drugs and transport, free of cost as an entitlement.

â€¢ Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), systematic efforts are undertaken to detect nutrition deficiency among children and adolescents respectively and treat/refer them appropriately.

As these nutrition interventions/programmes are an integral part of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) program under National Health Mission (NHM), the funds are being allocated to the States and UTs under RCH and Mission Flexi-pool funds as per their proposals in the yearly Programme Implementation Plans and are being utilized for various interventions of Child and Maternal Health programmes and not funded separately as a scheme, the details of which are provided in annexure 2.